

HECB, State Board meet to discuss current projects

When the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) met jointly on July 28, HECB Executive Director Ann Daley gave a status report on the System Design Plan, which will lay the policy and structural foundation for meeting the near-term and long-range goals of the state's Master Plan for Higher Education.

[Hear presentation on HECB's new YouTube site](#)

HECB approvals offer more options on the path to a college degree

In recent years, the majority of new degree programs approved for Washington colleges and universities have been in high-demand fields such as technology, health care, education, science, and engineering.

During its regular meeting on July 28, the HECB continued this trend by approving the following new degree programs (click degree titles to view recommendation reports):

- [Bachelor of Applied Arts in Interior Design](#) (Bellevue College)
- [Bachelor of Paramedicine](#) (UW Seattle)
- [BS in Information Technology and Systems](#) (UW Tacoma)
- [MS Computing and Software Systems](#) (UW Bothell)
- [BS Athletic Training](#) (WSU)
- [BS Economic Sciences](#) (WSU)
- [BS Electrical Engineering](#) (UW Bothell)

Higher ed plays major role in economic development

The HECB heard a panel of three economic development experts discuss the role higher education will play in our state's economic future.

Egils Milbergs, executive director of the Washington Economic Development Commission, discussed an innovation-driven model of economic development in which higher education is a critical component. [View Mr. Milbergs' presentation.](#)

Dan McConnon, Assistant Director for Community Services, Washington Department of Commerce, reviewed the importance of 'green jobs' to the state's economy. [View Mr. McConnon's presentation.](#)

John Lederer, HECB associate director for academic affairs, reported that the state's higher education system has increased the number of high demand degrees and certificates by 34 percent since 2001-2002. [View Mr. Lederer's presentation.](#)

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[Board resolution thanks WWU grad Sasha Sleiman for two terms as HECB's student rep](#)

[Andrew Helm joins HECB](#)

Joint legislative audit review of higher education

The 2009 Legislature required the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) to complete by October 2010, a performance audit of the four-year institutions to create a transparent link between revenues, expenditures and performance outcomes. Legislative Auditor Ruta Fanning said the work will include developing scope and objectives, and interviewing legislators, staff, and interested parties. Audit field work will start this fall. [View Ms. Fanning's presentation.](#)

Executive Director's Report

Ann Daley, HECB executive director, gave two reports on the scope of current and previous work assigned by the Legislature. One reviewed how the agency arrived at its current slate of work assignments. The other discussed how they complement each other.

Raising the level of education is near the center of President Obama's priorities for America, a fact that makes Washington's recent work on increased degree attainment even more important, Daley said. "Our President has recognized that the work going on to raise educational levels in Washington and other leading economic states is vital to the future success of our nation," she said.

Most of the strategic planning done on behalf of the state's higher education system in the last five years has stressed the need to raise degree and certificate attainment so the state and its citizens can thrive in a knowledge-based global economy built on innovation.

The Strategic Master Plan recommended raising state degree and certificate production 40 percent annually by 2018, and offered a set of policy recommendations to accomplish this. A subsequent report, assigned by the 2008 Legislature, provided more information on how the state can achieve the goals and what it might cost.

When the 2009 Legislature had to make deep cuts in higher education funding to help balance the state budget, legislators again asked the HECB to engage in additional study with institutions, their boards and stakeholders, on how to maintain momentum toward meeting master plan goals.

A new System Design Plan due in December promises to provide analysis and recommendation on how to achieve master plan goals, although over a somewhat longer timeframe than originally established. [Read more.](#)

SBCTC's Two-year performance measures reviewed

The state's community and technical colleges began a Student Achievement Initiative in 2006, designed to reward campuses for achieving higher levels of student success measured against a set of performance benchmarks.

Jan Yoshiwara, deputy director, said the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges collaborated with the Community College Research Center at Columbia University to develop four categories of student achievement measures: 1) building toward college-level skills; 2) first-year retention; 3) completing college-level math; and 4) completing degrees, certificates, or apprenticeship training.

Ms. Yoshiwara suggested these benchmarks might be helpful as the HECB works with the legislature and four-year institutions to implement six-year performance agreements. [Read more.](#)

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[Oct. 9 deadline set for
Future Teachers
Conditional Scholarship
applications](#)

Mission study outlines CTC role

Jan Yoshiwara of the SBCTC reported preliminary findings and recommendations of a community and technical college systemwide task force analyzing state educational and economic needs and how two-year colleges can help meet them.

The study has determined:

- The majority of CTC growth will be population driven.
- Participation will increase among low-income young adults, Hispanics, and adults without college credits, in Central and Southwest Washington.
- The system will need to close the skills gap for technical workers while maintaining its contribution to bachelor's degrees.
- By 2020, all students will be taking courses supported by digital technologies.

[View Ms. Yoshiwara's report.](#)